

Dick Doyle, addressing the issue of spotty attendance at chapter meetings, suggested that the chapter might want to reduce its schedule to 4-6 meetings per year to take some pressure off of the people who do attend and thereby insure "survival of the chapter." He noted the chapter was "within an eyelash" of folding completely several years ago. Meeting on a weeknight was another option. No action was taken, and the issue will be considered at a future meeting.

Jon Pintello moved that the chapter hire a snow removal service to keep the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial clear of snow. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously. Andy Megrath will check with some snow removal services.

Dick Doyle suggested putting up a bulletin board for posting current information of interest to members.

Nov. 3, 2001, will be the date of the Third Annual Statewide Veterans Day Memorial Parade. It will be held in Essex Junction. In April, the Wall That Heals, a traveling version of The Wall in Washington, D.C., will visit Essex Junction.

The idea of meeting with other veterans groups for joint planning of Memorial Day ceremonies seems to have lost some momentum. However, the local Veterans Council meeting later in January will be an opportunity to discuss the matter.

Remember: Next meeting is Saturday, Feb. 6, VFW Post 648, Rutland, dinner optional at 5 p.m. (\$7 per person), meeting at 6 p.m.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702-6301

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

January 2001



REPORT OF VVA CHAPTER 1 BOARD MEETING AND MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Jan. 6, 2001

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Chapter 1 board members Dick Doyle, Jon Pintello, Andy Megrath and Jack Crowther met with State Council President John Miner and Vice President Buster Holmberg to discuss issues raised in a letter to Miner. Chapter 1 had considered withdrawing from the State Council because of dissatisfaction with its performance, particularly in the area of communication.

Dick Doyle had asked the national VVA office if withdrawing was an option, and the word from national's constitutional expert was that no, that was not possible under the constitution.

John Miner addressed Chapter One's complaints, including the Vet Rock aborted concert, the sale of granite fragments from The Wall in Washington, the VVA booth at the Vermont State Fair, the mailing out of notices of State Council meetings and making the minutes of State Council meetings available. John noted productive efforts the council has made, including a \$5,000 grant for homeless veterans, maintenance of the website (www.vvavtsc.com), the Patriot's Medal, and lobbying successfully for improvement of the Sharon rest area Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Dick Doyle made several suggestions to improve things: 1) Mailed notice to State Council members of meetings, 2) Posting of minutes on the web site, and 3) an Annual Report to the State Council on the Green Mountain Vietnam Era Veterans Assistance Fund, the separate organization formed to market the fragments from The Wall. There were no objections to these proposals. Dick also mentioned the advantage of acquiring computers for the chapters to aid in communication.

CHAPTER ONE MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began at 6:15 p.m. Buster Holmberg, president of the Chester VVA Chapter attended.

Andy Megrath moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as published. Second Jon Pintello. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Andy Megrath reported a total of \$10,735.81 in the chapter's two accounts. The chapter's check for \$1,000 to the World War II memorial was never cashed. Due to a move of the memorial headquarters, cashing the check may have been delayed, so we will wait before writing a replacement check.

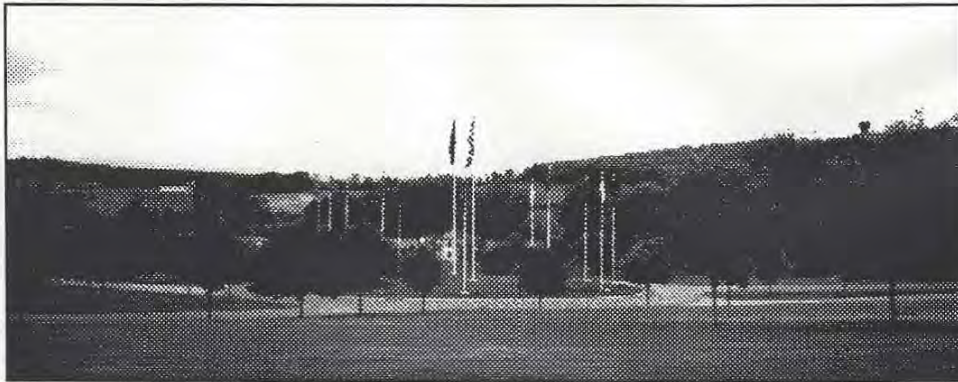
Steve Faye moved to appropriate \$500 for the base stone at the Veterans Cemetery in Randolph. Second Jon Pintello. Carried unanimously.

Membership: Dick Doyle reported that as of the Dec. 5 printout, the chapter had 119 members, including 37 life members and two others making payments toward life memberships.



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

February 2001



This is a view of the central flag area of the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph. Chapter One recently voted to contribute \$500 toward a granite marker for the base of a Vietnam Veterans of America flag. (Photo by Steve Faye)

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Feb. 3, 2001

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Five members present.

New members include James Tichacek of San Diego, Calif., and Douglas Barrett of West Haven. Welcome aboard!

Treasurer's Report: Our \$1,000 check for the World War II memorial in Washington has still not been cashed but the delay may have been due to a move of offices of the memorial sponsors. Chapter One will wait a while longer, then write a new check and stop payment on the old one if it is not cashed.

Total of Chapter One funds in two bank accounts is \$11,432.71. Treasurer Andy Megrath has moved \$3,000 into the money market account to increase interest earnings.

Steve Faye is pursuing the idea of a Chapter One booth at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland in September and is willing to take vacation to man it. This would be different from last year's effort, which was a statewide VVA project and fell far short of success. If anyone has ideas or is willing to participate, contact Steve at 802-773-7305 or e-mail him at steveatdsi@aol.com.

There was a discussion of contributions Chapter 1 should be making in light of the large balance in the treasury. It was noted that we have not kept up our payments to the Dodge House transitional home for veterans in Rutland. Steve Faye also suggested the Boys & Girls Clubs as a good organization to support. Andy will check what we owe to Dodge House, and we will invite a representative to update the chapter at the March 3 meeting on the operations of the home.

We discussed the appearance of the Wall That Heals, a traveling replica of The Wall in Washington, at the Champlain Valley Exposition from April 19 to 22. April 20 is VVA day, and State Council Vice President Buster Holmberg is recruiting participation of the chapters. Ceremonies will be held at 5 p.m. Makeup of the color guard was discussed. Chapter One's color guard has lost participation, and its future is uncertain. Andy Megrath suggested a joint color guard made up of representatives of the various chapters.

The minutes of the State Council meeting of Jan. 13 are on the State Council web site, <http://www.vvavtsc.com/> under the "Council Officers" button.

The VVA Veterans Home picnic will be June 23, Father's Day. VVA chapters from Vermont send volunteers to serve the meal to the vets. Jack Crowther moved to have Chapter One donate the \$80 requested for the picnic. Second Steve Faye. Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Next meeting is Saturday, March 3, VFW Post 648, Rutland, dinner optional at 5 p.m. (\$7 per person), meeting at 6 p.m.

Also Please Note: Annual elections will be at the April meeting. Anyone who would like to serve should notify a chapter officer or write to us at VVA Chapter One, P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

January 2002



CHAPTER MEETING January 9, 2002 VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron, Vice President Steve Faye and board member Jack Crowther met informally, as a quorum was not present.

Steve Faye has agreed to serve as Chapter 1 coordinator and first point of contact for vets seeking information on opening a claim for VA benefits. This is a new approach in Vermont for serving vets wanting to pursue VA benefits. Steve's e-mail address is steveatdsi@aol.com.

There was brief discussion of the chapter assuming a \$2,500 corporate sponsorship of the Rutland County Boys and Girls Clubs. Another suggestion for spending chapter funds was to purchase supplies for the ongoing Habitat for Humanity project in Honduras that John Bergeron and Phil Savery took part in a couple of years ago.

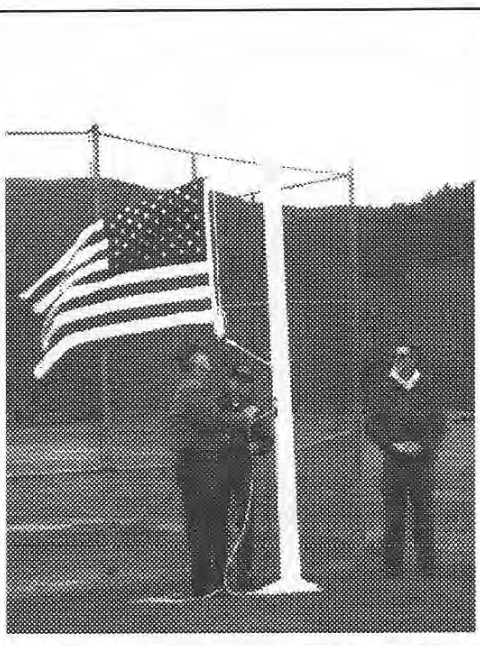
Meanwhile, the chapter received a thank-you from the Rutland Garden Club for our gift of \$250. The Garden Club and individuals in it generously donated plants, trees and pavers and helped do the planting at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland.

Planning is proceeding for the Sharon rest area state Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A dedication is planned for October, with completion anticipated in 2003.

Dick Doyle, our longtime membership chair, who was called up after Sept. 11 and is helping with military police deployments while serving at Fort McPherson in Georgia, can be reached at rpdoyl39@hotmail.com.

The next Chapter 1 meeting is slated for Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at the VFW on Wales Street.

Hope to see you!



VVA Chapter 1 members Jack Crowther (left) and Steve Faye raise the flag on the newly purchased pole at Mill River Union High School, while Mill River Football Club President David Seward looks on. Chapter 1 donated \$250 toward the cost of the pole.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Board Member

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support for the years 2000 and 2001. Second Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Steve Faye again brought up the matter of renting a booth at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland during Fair Week. The cost is \$100. The booth would give exposure to the chapter and allow for the sale of memorabilia. It would be necessary to staff the booth from Aug. 31 to Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Anyone interested in helping out should get in touch with Steve at (802) 773-7305 before May 1.

Treasurer's report. As of Feb. 28, the chapter had \$11,371.91, with another deposit to be made soon.

Membership stands at 122, plus nine associate members, with four new memberships pending.

Calvin Cole of the Chester VVA chapter is stepping down as secretary of the State Council. Anyone interested in filling this position should notify Chapter 1 President John Bergeron at 773-2815 or Box 6301 Rutland, 05702-6301 or State Council President John Miner at (802) 447-0407 (h) or e-mail him at malibu@sover.net.

Steve Faye also inquired if anyone was interested in attending the national VVA convention July 31 to Aug. 5 in Greensboro, N.C.

Buster Holmberg, vice president of the State Council, is anxious to hear from chapters regarding attendance April 20 at the appearance of The Wall that Heals in Essex. April 20 will be VVA day, and a ceremony is planned for 7 p.m. Anyone interested should contact a Chapter 1 officer so word can be relayed to Buster.

Our next meeting is Saturday, April 7, VFW Post 648, Rutland, dinner optional at 5 p.m. (\$7 per person), meeting at 6 p.m. This will be our ANNUAL MEETING with election of officers. Anyone who would like to serve should notify a chapter officer or write to us at VVA Chapter One, P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301, or simply show up at the meeting and express your interest.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

February 2002



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Feb. 13, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order.

Six members were present, including Lawrence Young of Rutland Town, a new face in the chapter.

Steve Faye, who is participating in the planning for the Sharon rest area Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Interstate 89, briefed the group on plans for the project, which is to be dedicated Oct. 26 and completed next year. The State Council President John Miner and his wife, Joyce, have put up a Web page on the project — www.vvavtsc.com/sharon.htm — with color renderings of various parts of the project and different views. The next meeting of the planning group will be March 30 at 11 a.m. at VFW Post 648 in Rutland in the Chapter 1 club room. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Steve mentioned the memorial could use support from the chapter for “incidentals,” mailings and other expenses not covered by the budget for the project. Chapter 1 will ask for an accounting of what is needed and what other chapters will be asked to contribute.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported a total of \$16,321.27 in the chapters money market and regular accounts.

For Rutland's Loyalty Day Parade May 5, the Sons of the American Revolution are trying to assemble uniforms from the different military eras to be represented in the parade. Manchester (Vt.) will have a Loyalty Day event, on May 19, featuring the Vietnam veteran as its theme.

The state Veterans Parade organized by the Boy Scouts will be held in Rutland this year Nov. 9.

The chapter received a certificate for its support of the Vermont State Veterans Benefit Program.

Steve Faye reported that Vermont vets had received \$161,000 in claims since the new program of service officers got started.

Chapter 601 in Bennington will celebrate its 10th anniversary March 6 and will host the national president of VVA, Thomas H. Corey, at a \$10-per-person affair.

The Vermont Veterans Home picnic, when members of VVA chapters around the state serve the residents a picnic lunch, will be June 29, starting at 10 a.m. Steve Faye moved to contribute the requested \$80. Second Jon Pintello. Passed unanimously.

This is election year for the State Council, the statewide umbrella for VVA. The election will be June 8 at the State Council meeting in Chester. Buster Holmberg of the Chester chapter is the presumed successor to John Miner as president, but nominations are in order for all offices.

Steve Faye reported that the Green Mountain Council, an offshoot organization connected to the State Council, has done well obtaining grant money and distributing it for homeless vets.

On May 10, the VVA Region 1 conference for the northeastern VVA chapters will be held in Weirs Beach, N.H. Steve Faye moved that Chapter 1 donate \$500 for a cemetery marker proposed for the West Street Cemetery in Rutland by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The marker will list the 44 veterans buried there from the Revolutionary, Mexican and Civil wars. Second Andy Megrath. Passed unanimously.

The Girl Scout Council of Vermont has requested sponsorship for needy children who can benefit from a summer camp experience. John Bergeron will get more information.

Chapter 1 has supported the Boys and Girls Club, located in Rutland, in the past and has considered upgrading its support for its important contributions to the youth of the area. After some discussion, Jon Pintello moved that Chapter 1 become a \$2,500 "corporate sponsor" of the club. Second Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

Steve Faye moved that the chapter provide a \$100 gift certificate at the golf shop on North Main Street for Shaun Tomasi and Danielle Tomasi of Fair Haven. The Tomasis' bar in Fair Haven is the source of virtually all of Chapter 1's income via "ripoff tickets," and the chapter wanted to show its appreciation for the continued support. Second Jon Pintello. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Acting Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

March 2002



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

March 13, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order.

Six members were present, including Bub Crosby of Bridport, a new face in the chapter.

Also on hand was Dick Doyle, who was on a 30-day leave from active duty at Fort McPherson, Ga., where he serves as a sergeant major at the Forces Command Headquarters. Dick, an MP, was called up following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and is involved in the stateside coordination of the war effort. He was slated to return to Fort McPherson March 23 for another 45 days, having already served 100 days.

Also involved in the response to Sept. 11 is Chapter 1 member Andy Moschetto, a Navy veteran and former New York City police detective. He has been working at the site on Staten Island where debris from the collapse of the World Trade Center towers is being sifted for evidence and disposed of.

John Bergeron reported informally that the Chapter 1 bank deposits are currently about \$17,000.

Dick Doyle moved the chapter give \$225 to the Vermont Girl Scout Council to sponsor one Rutland County child for a residential Girl Scout camp and \$100 for one child for the organization's day camp. If possible, children of veterans will be selected. Second, Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

Richard Alberty of Middletown Springs is a new life member of VVA.

Dick Doyle reported the chapter currently has 116 members.

Dick Doyle moved to spend \$300 to sponsor a hole in the Sons of the American Legion Golf Tournament May 4 at Neshobe Country Club. Proceeds from the tournament help support the Dodge House in Rutland for homeless veterans.

Dick Doyle again described the work of Friends of Veterans, in which he is active. It is a source of funds of last resort for veterans who may have exhausted others kinds of help. The non-government group does not pay veterans cash but pays for things a vet may need to get back on his feet, such as a deposit on an apartment.

Steve Faye moved to donate \$1,000 to the Friends of Veterans. Second, Bub Crosby. Passed unanimously.

Any Chapter 1 members planning to take part in the Manchester Loyalty Day Parade May 19 should be there at 1 p.m. sharp.

Steve Faye has received training as a service rep in his role as Chapter 1 coordinator for claims of veterans with the Veterans Administration. To reach Steve, e-mail him at fayemarvet@aol.com or write him at P.O. Box 6067, Rutland, VT 05702-6067.

Chapter 1 elections will be held at the April 10 meeting at the chapter's club rooms at VFW Post 648 at 7 p.m.

The chapter needs to elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer and five board members. Also needed are three representatives (appointed by the president) to the State Council, governing body for the VVA in Vermont. Anyone interested in serving in any of these positions should attend and/or express interest to President Bergeron by phone (773-2815) or write to VVA Chapter 1, PO Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland. Election of officers will be held. Please try to attend and keep Chapter 1 energized!

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Acting Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

April 2002



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

April 10, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order.

Only four members were present, insufficient for an annual meeting with election of officers.

Because of conflicts with other events, the Vermont Veterans Home picnic in Bennington has been rescheduled for July 13. That's the day VVA members from around Vermont serve a picnic lunch to the Veterans Home residents.

After the unveiling of plans for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Interstate 89 in Sharon, the whole project is now on hold due to a 10 percent cut to each state in federal transportation funds. Vermont State Council President John Miner has been in touch with state and local officials, but the picture is not good as of this writing.

Jack Crowther moved to take the steps necessary to set chapter President John Bergeron up with a computer and America Online account at the minimal level to receive e-mail related to VVA and have access to the Internet. Andy Megrath will be able to supply a laptop computer donated by a local business.

Second, Andy Megrath. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer Megrath reported a total of \$12,157.15 in the VVA accounts. He said he will investigate other banks for the VVA deposits, since the chapter was charged \$5 for an inactive money market account at the Chittenden Bank. The account has \$8,364.87 in it.

Current membership stands at 112 regular members and 7 associate members.

The following slate of officers was proposed to be acted upon at the next meeting on Wednesday, May 10:

President, John Bergeron; vice president, Steve Faye; secretary, Jack Crowther; treasurer, Andy Megrath; board members, officers plus Dick Doyle, Jon Pintello, Larry Young, Bub Crosby and Walt Crossman. Proposed for state council delegates were Larry Young, Steve Faye and Bill Picknell.

Since not all of the above were present, any of those named who wish not to serve should notify John Bergeron before the next meeting (773-2815 at his shop). If you are interested in serving in any of the above offices but are not listed, please let us know as well, so your name can be placed in nomination.

Chapter 1 is planning to spruce up the memorial in Main Street Park and will coordinate that work with the Rutland Garden Club. If interested in taking part, contact John Bergeron at the above number so we can notify you of the date.

Jack Crowther moved that the chapter acquire a new POW-MIA flag for the memorial, as the current one is showing wear. Second, Steve Faye. Passed unanimously.

The Fair Haven American Legion is planning the grand opening of its new quarters May 4 with a flag raising at noon and an official ceremony at 3 p.m. The public is invited.

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

Election of officers will be held. Please try to attend!

Submitted by

Jack Crowther, Acting Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

May 2002



Larry Young of Rutland Town, a new Chapter 1 board member, shares this picture of his home base in a Montagnard village in Vietnam's Central Highlands. Young spent 14 months in Vietnam, initially as a combat medic with the 1st of the 10th Cavalry. After eight months he was transferred to civil affairs, working here and helping build the structure in the upper right, which served as a school and hospital. Young served in Vietnam in 1968 and 1969. He and about 10 other Americans lived in bunkers like the one in the lower left.

Have a picture to share? Send to Jack Crowther, Ch. 1 secretary, at 29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland, VT 05701 with a description.

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

May 8, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order. Five members present.

Tom Reardon, longtime captain of the Chapter 1 Color Guard, is moving to Michigan. Chapter 1 expresses its thanks to Tom for his work with the Color Guard and other contributions to the chapter over the years.

Treasurer Andy Megrath has talked to Charter 1 Bank in anticipation of moving the chapter's funds there from Chittenden Bank to increase interest rates and avoid certain account charges. Total deposits of the chapter at present are \$11,968.43.

The Brandon Independence Day Parade will be July 6 at 1 p.m. Steve Faye agreed to take charge of coordinating Chapter 1 participation in such events.

The Rutland City Memorial Day event will be Monday, May 27, at the West Street Cemetery. Chapter 1 donated \$500 to the new cemetery marker with the names of 44 veterans buried there from the Revolutionary War through the Civil War. The ceremony will be at 11 a.m.

Chapter 1 members have also been invited to the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery Memorial Day service in Randolph Center Thursday, May 30, at 3 p.m.

Jack Crowther moved to adopt a resolution congratulating John Miner, president of the VVA State Council and national VVA Region I director, for his selection as VVA Member of the Year. Awarded the honor at the VVA national convention, Miner is prominently featured in the April/May issue of *The VVA Veteran*. Second Andy Megrath. Approved unanimously.

The following slate of officers was placed in nomination: president, John Bergeron; vice president, Steve Faye; secre-

tary, Jack Crowther; treasurer, Andy Megrath; directors, officers plus Richard Doyle, Jon Pintello, Larry Young, Bub Crosby and Walt Crossman Jr.

The slate was unanimously approved. Since some of those named were not present, anyone declining an office should contact John Bergeron promptly at 773-2815.

Unanimously approved for representative to the State Council were Steve Faye and Larry Young, with a third position still to be filled.

The next State Council meeting will be June 8 in White River Junction.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, June 12, at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

FURTHER NOTES: Members may be interested to know there is a Vermont Veterans Affairs Office that may prove useful, though it operates on a limited budget, currently about \$21,000 a year. Services fall into the areas of education (making known what veterans' benefits are available); verification of military service; cemetery (administering the Vermont Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Randolph Center); monetary assistance (temporary financial assistance to veterans and their dependents); and individual assistance (including referrals to appropriate sources of help).

The State of Vermont Veterans Affairs Office is located at 118 State Street in Montpelier. The toll-free number is 888-666-9844 (within Vermont) or call 802-828-3379. Clayton Clark is the director of Veterans Affairs.

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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

June 2002



Chapter 1 contributed \$500 toward this new monument in West Street Cemetery in Rutland honoring more than 40 veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the Civil War who are buried there. The photo was taken at the formal unveiling on Memorial Day, May 27.

Have a picture to share? Send to Jack Crowther, Ch. 1 secretary, at 29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland, VT 05701 with a description.

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING - June 12, 2002 - VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order. Eight members were present, including new faces Walt Crossmon Jr., now a board member, Bob Eaton from Paraguay (!) and Kym Hoerr, back to Vermont from Florida.

John Bergeron gave the treasurer's report for Andy Megrath. The chapter has \$13,899.71 in its two accounts.

Steve Faye moved to accept the minutes of the May meeting as printed in the newsletter. Second Larry Young. Approved unanimously.

Steve has been elected secretary of the VVA State Council, the statewide organization for VVA. Elected president is Buster Holmberg of the Chester chapter. Outgoing president John Miner of the Bennington chapter will serve as vice president. Ed Jones will continue as treasurer, and Robert Wheeler will serve as membership chair.

Longtime membership chair for Chapter 1 Dick Doyle was reported back in Vermont after service with the Army following the post-September 11 call-ups. Dick was involved in coordinating deployment of military police around the world and was stationed at Fort McPherson, Ga.

John Bergeron initiated discussion about having a "comments book" at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland. We would need to determine what form it would take to be protected from the weather.

Chapter 1 polo shirts can be obtained from Initial Ideas in Rutland for \$18, plus \$1 for your name. The shirt would carry the Chapter 1 logo. The shirts could serve as a "uniform" at veterans functions.

The Rutland Garden Club will be planting day lilies at the memorial in Rutland in the near future. John will thank Mill River Lumber for the bark mulch used to spruce up the memorial site. Phil Savery and Jack Crowther spread the mulch at the site recently.

Larry Young, a new member of the Chapter 1 board of directors, reported on the Region 1 conference he attended in early May in Weirs Beach, N.H. A speaker on health care issues was excellent, Larry said. Larry will be serving on the board at Dodge House in Rutland, the transitional home for veterans trying to resume a normal place in society. Chapter 1 currently supports the Dodge House with an annual contribution.

Pam Harris, president of the Rutland VFW Post Auxiliary, spoke to request Chapter 1 support for a project to place flags on all the units in the Forest Park housing project of residents who wish to fly the flags. The hope is to place the flags by Veterans Day on as many as 76 units.

Steve Faye moved to donate \$150 toward the effort. Second Kym Hoerr. Passed unanimously.

Steve reported on the State Council meeting. He described the Honor a Vet With Your Vote program coordinated by the Vermont Secretary of State's office. By filling out a form, available online at www.sec.state.vt.us, a voter can receive a personalized button to wear to the polls Nov. 5 declaring appreciation for the specific contributions of a particular veteran.

There will be a dedication ceremony, though not a groundbreaking, Oct. 26 and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sharon. A cutback in federal funds has put the start of construction on indefinite hold.

The Bristol area is considering forming a new chapter of VVA. That would make seven chapters for Vermont.

The annual picnic at the Vermont Veterans Home in Bennington will be Saturday, July 13, beginning at 10 a.m. Chapter 1 members who wish to carpool to this rewarding event should meet at VFW Post 648 in Rutland to depart no later than 8:30 a.m.

The chapter enjoyed meeting Bob Eaton from Asuncion, Paraguay. A life member of VVA, Bob joined the Army out of the University of Vermont. A U.S. citizen, he was born in Paraguay, where his father, a Vermonter, had gone to work as a cattle foreman. Bob served two tours in Vietnam, with a stint in El Salvador in between. He is currently a consultant in quality management. He is an infrequent visitor to the U.S. but commented on a change in atmosphere here since his last visit, namely a greater spirit of solidarity and hospitality and less preoccupation with personal affairs.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*



July 2002

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

July 10, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order. Eight members were present, including Dick Doyle, back from a total of 145 days of active duty following the post-Sept. 11 callup of reservists and guard troops.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported a total of \$13,911.02 in the chapter's two bank accounts.

Membership chairman Dick Doyle said the chapter had about 115 members at last report.

Bill Picknell has become a life member of VVA. Richard Romano of Bomoseen is becoming a life member. Chapter 1 welcomes Joel W. Williams of Poultney as a new member.

Chapter 1 President John Bergeron, Secretary Jack Crowther and member Dick Shum assisted the Rutland Garden Club with planting some day lilies and other flowers at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park in Rutland and with new plantings around the Green Mountain Boy statue, a short distance to the north of our memorial, in the park.

It was noted that the Boy Scouts in Fair Haven are wearing a POW-MIA pin as part of their official uniform.

The Honor Roll for the Vietnam Memorial has been updated with the addition of nine names of those who served in Vietnam after entering the service from Rutland County. The roll now has the names of 226 who served and 18 killed in action. That is about 100 names more than were on the Honor Roll when the memorial was dedicated two years ago. The list will continue to be updated as paperwork is submitted for those who qualify. Unfortunately, the color portions of the Honor Roll do not match the color of the other posters displayed at the memorial. John Bergeron will check into it and see about having the poster redone.

The rededication of the Vietnam veterans flagpole at the Vermont Veterans Cemetery in Randolph will take place Sunday, Aug. 4, beginning with a chapel service at 2 p.m.

Bub Crosby is having bookcases custom built for the Chapter 1 rooms at the VFW in Rutland, and they should be ready shortly.

Chapter 1 member John Suddarth has been on a two-week trip to Vietnam. We hope to hear about his trip at the next meeting.

After some discussion of polo shirts as a "uniform" for Chapter 1 members to wear at official functions, Howard Cobb moved that we settle on a forest green, or equivalent, shirt with the chapter logo and "Rutland, Vt." on the left breast and the member's name on the right breast. The shirts will cost about \$18, plus the cost of the embroidered name. Second, Jack Crowther. Passed unanimously.

Jack Crowther suggested the chapter might want to support Rutland's United Neighborhoods, RUN for short, a relatively new organization in the city that seeks to work with local police to promote active cooperation, mutual

respect and shared responsibility. Jack will talk to RUN coordinator Avery Cleary about having the group make a presentation to Chapter 1.

Chapter 1 needs to replace Steve Faye as a State Council rep, as Steve has been elected secretary of the group. Anyone interested in this position, which involves just three meetings a year, should contact John Bergeron at 773-2815, or Jack Crowther at 775-1182.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Secretary of State Deb Markowitz's office and the Vermont Department of Veterans Affairs are promoting the Honor a Vet With Your Vote project, allowing voters to honor a veteran and receive a personalized button. The form to fill out is available at www.sec.state.vt.us. You may call the secretary of state's office at 802-828-2363 or the Office of Vermont Veterans's Affairs at 802-828-3379 for more details, or write to the Office of the Secretary of State, 26 Terrace St., Montpelier, VT 05609-1101.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

**Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 21 , at 7 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.
(NOTE: 3RD WEDNESDAY OF MONTH, INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 2ND WEDNESDAY)**

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THANKS TO CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP. SHAREHOLDERS FOR THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

VVA Chapter 1
PO Box 6301
Rutland, VT 05702-6301

Address Correction Requested



Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

September 2002



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Sept. 12, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

The meeting began informally with cleaning and organizing our meeting area on the second floor of the VFW and moving file cabinets and office furniture into the quarters from President John Bergeron's store. Following this, the five members present had pizza and then went on to the business meeting. This will be repeated at our next meeting Oct. 9, as we put up pictures, assemble furniture and generally make the space into more of a friendly, pleasant surrounding for meetings and other activities.

Business Portion of Meeting:

Treasurer's Report: The chapter has \$13,907.25 in its two accounts. Treasurer Andy Megrath is in contact with Charter 1 Bank regarding moving our accounts from Chittenden Bank, as Charter 1 does not charge for inactive accounts (such as a money market account, where some chapter funds are kept to draw higher interest).

After brief discussion, it was agreed that Andy Megrath will upgrade the insurance protecting the chapter from a member absconding with funds from \$5,000 to \$10,000, a figure more in line with the chapter's resources. The premium will be \$100 per year, with a \$1,000 deductible, instead of the same premium with a \$250 deductible.

It was agreed that the new Honor Roll of names for the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be installed on Veterans Day or perhaps the weekend before. Stay tuned for the precise time.

Tom Reardon is planning to spend the winter in Australia with some service pals, leaving in October.

Bub Crosby showed us the new Vermont Veterans Medal and Distinguished Service Medal. The medals are for those who entered military service while a Vermont resident. The Veterans Medal basically requires two years of service on active duty or mobilization in a guard or reserve unit during a period of conflict. The Distinguished Service Medal requires service in a combat theater. Applications are available from Chapter 1 at the return address shown on the other side of this newsletter or from the State Veterans Affairs Office, 118 State St., Drawer 20, Montpelier, VT 05620-4401, or call toll-free 888-666-9844.

Jack Crowther nominated Larry Young as Chapter 1 vice president, to replace Steve Faye, who resigned recently due to work commitments. Seconded by Andy Megrath. The nomination will be acted on at the next meeting. Anyone else interested in the position or in nominating someone should attend the meeting or submit a nomination.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 9, starting at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

We will continue cleanup and organizing of our meeting rooms, followed by pizza and the business meeting.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

THANKS TO CENTRAL VERMONT PUBLIC SERVICE CORP. SHAREHOLDERS FOR THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER.



Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

October 2002



MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Oct. 9, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

As occurred last month, the meeting was largely devoted to arranging our meeting space upstairs at the VFW, a large L-shaped room and two small side rooms. The six members on hand, John Bergeron, Bub Crosby, Jack Crowther, Andy Megrath and Larry Young, spent a couple of hours going through materials accumulated in the chapter's 20-plus years, dusting, throwing out and placing things on the wall or on bookshelves or in boxes or filing cabinets for storage.

A scheme for displaying our many photographs, plaques, banners and other items is starting to take shape. A large north wall now displays reproductions of the posters that are part of the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The chapter, with Larry Young's help, hopes to create two large bulletin boards for display of photographs. One may display photos from members' time in the service and the other may feature photos from activities of the chapter over the years.

An informal pizza supper concluded our work. Making this space a "home" for the chapter will continue at our next meeting, and of course all members or prospective members are welcome. See below for meeting details.

Business Portion of Meeting:

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order.

The chapter has \$13,561.82 in its two accounts, as reported by Treasurer Andy Megrath.

Membership Chairman Dick Doyle presented the following report: Present chapter membership is 120. Thanks to all that support our chapter. Special thanks go out this month to our 48 Life Members. It says a lot about your commitment to VVA and Chapter 1! Also I want to acknowledge Bill Picknell and Richard Romano, our newest life members.

If you have a membership-related problem, e-mail Dick Doyle at rpdoyle39@hotmail.com or call him at 802-885-1421 to leave a message day or night.

Here are the life members of Chapter 1: Richard Alberty, Greg Ballou, Dudley Berry, Michael Boston, Michael Brown, Victor Brunelle, Sam Bunge, David Cain, Leo Carvey, John Clogston, Frank Conrad, Donald Cook, Wesley Crider, Bub Crosby, Mike Divoll, Randall Dockstader, Joe Donaldson, Dick Doyle, and Roberto Eaton-Kent.

Also, Roland Faucher, Steve Faye, William Fitzgerald, William Garner, John Gilligan, Ted Goodfleisch, Harlan Hatfield, Kym Hoerr, Dean Howarth, Jake Jacobsen, Roger Jimmo, James Lay, Robert Lubinsky, Andy Megrath, Anthony Mettler, Bill Picknell, Jon Pintello, Tom Reardon, Jack Reed, Donald Robichaud, and Richard Romano.

Also, Stephen Sanderson, Bob Schaffer, Thomas Siefring, Robert Slabey, Barry Stone, Joseph Teer, John Wagner, Francis Wetherby, and George Wisell.

The Girl Scout Council of Vermont requested help from the chapter to support two girls attending a scouting convention in Long Beach, Calif., in October. Jack Crowther moved to give each girl \$100 if the money is still needed.

Second, Dick Doyle. Passed unanimously.

Larry Young had been nominated at the previous meeting to fill the vacant position of vice president. His nomination was approved unanimously.

Andy Megrath reported that the VFW's "Skitch" will be serving up a free breakfast Sunday, Nov. 10, for any veteran with membership in a veterans organization, be it the VFW, American Legion, VVA or whatever. The breakfast will be from 8 to 10 a.m. at VFW Post 648 on Wales Street. Veterans can bring a guest and pay for the second breakfast.

In conjunction with the Nov. 10 breakfast, Chapter 1 will be installing the latest update to the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park at 11 a.m., following the breakfast. Since last year's update, the chapter has added nine names of persons who entered the service from Rutland County and served in Vietnam, bringing the total to 226. Names will continue to be added as DD-214 forms are received documenting service in the war. The names of the 18 servicemen killed in action are also on the memorial.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 13, starting at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland.

**We will continue cleanup and organizing of our meeting rooms, followed by pizza
and the business meeting.**

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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Rutland, VT 05702-6301

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Vietnam Veterans Of America *Chapter One*

November 2002



Ceremony at Memorial

This was the scene Nov. 10 at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Rutland, where Chapter 1 installed a new Honor Roll of names of those who served in Vietnam. Addition of nine names raised the total to 226 who served, along with the 16 men killed in action.

Photo by T.J. Hooker, Rutland Herald

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Nov. 13, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

Once again, the meeting was largely devoted to arranging our meeting space upstairs at the VFW. Bookshelves are in place and partially filled. The walls are filling up with various items including a large Chapter 1 banner, a section with various certificates and awards to the chapter, photos and the like. Meanwhile, the material stored in boxes for so long is being displayed, thrown out or kept in storage. In the works are two large bulletin boards for posting unframed items.

On hand were John Bergeron, Bub Crosby, Walt Crossmon, Jack Crowther, Andy Megrath and Larry Young. A pizza supper provided a break in the proceedings. This meeting formula (with pizza supplied by the chapter) seems to be a workable combination of work and socializing and will continue at the meeting on Dec. 11 (see below for details).

Although there was no formal business meeting, it was reported that current membership is 123.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported \$14,102.39 in the club's treasury. Most of the funds have been moved to Charter One Bank to avoid certain fees at Chittenden Bank.

Chapter 1 installed the latest update to the Honor Roll at the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Main Street Park on Nov. 10. With the help of good publicity in the Rutland Herald, a group of about 25 people showed up. As mentioned in the photo caption above, the chapter has added nine names of persons who entered the service from Rutland County and served in Vietnam, bringing the total to 226. Names will continue to be added as DD-214 forms are received documenting service in the war. Replacing the weather-worn American flag at the memorial was a flag donated by Jack Crowther that had been presented to the family upon his father's death. Mr. Crowther was a World War II vet, serving in the Army Air Corps.

Membership Issues: Don't forget, if you have a membership-related problem, e-mail our membership chairman, Dick Doyle at rpdoyle39@hotmail.com or call him at 802-885-1421 to leave a message day or night.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 11, starting at 6 p.m. at VFW Post 648, Rutland. We will continue cleanup and organizing of our meeting rooms, followed by pizza and the business meeting.

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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Vietnam Veterans Of America

Chapter One

December 2002



Chapter 1 Treasurer Andy Megrath (left) presents check for \$400 to Rutland Police Lt. Kevin Geno and Avery Cleary, coordinator of Rutland's United Neighborhoods, a group seeking to strengthen city neighborhoods and reduce crime. (Photo courtesy of Sam's Good News)

Have a picture to share? Send to Jack Crowther, Ch. 1 secretary, at 29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland, VT 05701, with a description.

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Dec. 11, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

The first part of the meeting was again devoted to organizing the space in the club rooms. Shelves and walls are continuing to fill up with photographs and printed memorabilia, books, videos and miscellaneous items.

Larry Young donated three pieces of cork board, two of which were installed on the east wall. One suggestion was to put photos of chapter activities on one of the boards and pictures from Vietnam on the other. The chapter has a large quantity of photos which we have begun sorting. Plans are to bring in a label maker to our next meeting, so people will know what they're looking at.

Jack Crowther made a wooden rack for display of back issues of *The Veteran*, the Vietnam Veterans of America national publication. The magazine is a good source of information on many topics related to veterans activities and the war itself.

Norman Hawley, a friend and co-worker of Jack Crowther, has generously donated a television set and VCR to the chapter, giving us the ability to play our collection of video tapes.

President John Bergeron called the group to order about 7:30 p.m. for a short business meeting. A moment of silence was observed for Ray Reynolds, a local businessman and Marine veteran of Vietnam who died unexpectedly.

Chapter 1 would like to have e-mail addresses of chapter members. If you would like to share your e-mail address with other chapter members please let us know and we will publish it in our Chapter 1 newsletter. We will not distribute to anyone outside of the chapter without your permission. (Keep in mind, though, that our newsletter gets posted on the

State Council Web site.) Membership Chairman Dick Doyle has volunteered to collect e-mail addresses. Please e-mail him at rpdoyl39@hotmail.com.

There was discussion of T-shirts sent to the chapter commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Sharon. The shirts were to be sold. State Council President Buster Holmberg has told the chapter to pay \$300 for the shirts, none of which were sold. The chapter decided that since the chapter never requested the shirts and was not given a deadline to return them when they were delivered the chapter will simply return the shirts to the State Council. The sense of those at the Chapter 1 meeting was that the State Council's insistence on payment was unacceptable.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported \$15,390.29 in the treasury.

Jack Crowther proposed checking into humanitarian relief organizations doing work in Vietnam with an eye to making a contribution. If any members have suggestions, please contact the chapter with details.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Wednesday Jan. 8 at VFW Post 648, Rutland. We will again meet at 6 p.m., continue to organize our chapter rooms, break for a pizza and then hold our regular meeting. Come and see the progress we've made on the chapter headquarters!

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

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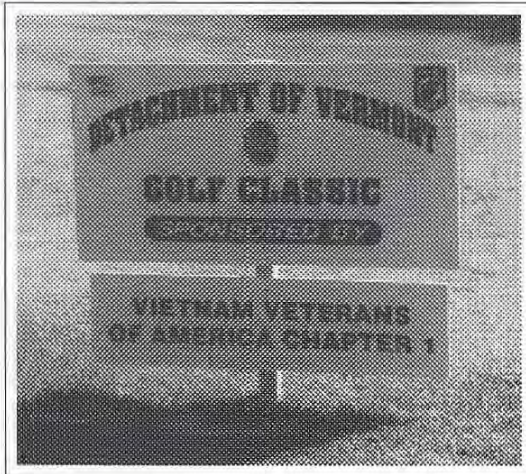
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PO Box 6301
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Vietnam Veterans Of America Chapter One

August 2002



Chapter 1 sponsored a hole to the tune of \$300 for the Sons of the American Legion Golf Tournament May 4 at Neshobe Country Club. The tournament raised \$14,500 for veterans' and children's programs in Vermont.

Have a picture to share? Send to Jack Crowther, Ch. 1 secretary, at 29 Giorgetti Blvd., Rutland, VT 05701, with a description.

MINUTES OF CHAPTER MEETING

Aug. 21, 2002

VFW Post 648, Rutland

President John Bergeron called the meeting to order. Eight members were present, including Tom Reardon, back in the area after a brief stay in Michigan, and Bill Picknell, who now lives in Bellows Falls.

Bub Crosby delivered three new oak bookcases, his gift for the chapter's quarters upstairs in the VFW building.

Because of expanded work commitments, Steve Faye has resigned from his position as vice president of Chapter 1, as State Council secretary and as chapter contact for VA claims. For now, requests for help with VA claims should go to Richard Reed, state service officer, P.O. Box 141, Brandon, VT 05733, or e-mail rvread@bluemoo.net. His cell phone is 1-802-236-3175. Good luck, Steve, and thanks for all your past efforts.

Treasurer Andy Megrath reported a total of \$14,645.88 in the chapter's two accounts.

The chapter received acknowledgement of its gift in support of the PT Boaters national organization.

It was agreed to pay Green Screen Graphics \$170 for updating the plaque for the Rutland County Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

At the chapter's invitation, seven representatives of Rutland's United Neighborhoods, known as RUN, were on hand to explain the work of the new neighborhood-based organization dedicated to strengthening neighborhoods and reducing crime. Avery Cleary is the coordinator of the group. Activities range from neighborhood cleanups to efforts to control traffic speed, working with young people and reporting suspicious activity to the police.

Following the group's departure, Tom Reardon moved to donate \$200 to RUN. Seconded by Kym Hoerr. Following discussion, the amount was amended to \$400. It was unanimously approved. It was agreed to issue a challenge to other veterans groups to also give their support.

Those present got a look our new green polo shirts, which can be worn casually and as part of a "uniform" at parades. The attractive knit shirts feature the chapter logo on the left breast and cost \$22, including embroidery of a first name or nickname on the right breast. They can be picked up at John Bergeron's shop on Center Street or mailed for an additional \$3. Checks can be made out to "VVA Chapter 1" and mailed to VVA Chapter 1, P.O. Box 6301, Rutland, VT 05702-6301. State size and first name or nickname.

Tom Reardon expressed an interest in reviving the chapter's color guard. Following up on earlier discussion, it was agreed that the new "uniform" for parades will consist of the new polo shirts, black trousers and black low-cut shoes with the addition of the chapter baseball cap that a number of members have.

The 4th Annual Statewide Veterans Day parade, sponsored by the Green Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts, will be held Saturday, Nov. 2, at 11 a.m. sharp in Waterbury.

An Addison County chapter of VVA is in the planning stages. An informational meeting was planned for Aug. 29 in Bristol. Contact is Brad Bedard at 453-5675.

Next Chapter 1 meeting is Thursday Sept. 12 at VFW Post 648, Rutland. We are meeting on a Thursday to avoid possible conflicts with Sept. 11 observances. Something else new: We will meet at 6 p.m., spend some time organizing our chapter rooms, break for a pizza supper and then hold our regular meeting. A little fun to go with the chapter business!

Submitted by
Jack Crowther, Secretary

Additional notes: The chapter extends its condolences to Steve Faye on the recent loss of his mother. *** The chapter wishes to thank Phil Savery, Dick Shum, Tom Reardon, Karen Cox and John Bergeron for sprucing up the Vietnam Veterans Memorial before the chapter meeting on Aug. 21. *** Kym Hoerr is headed south for the winter and plans to travel with her fifth wheel camper next summer but promises to be back the following summer. Safe traveling, Kym.

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